The composite contract was awarded to the consortium led by M/s. Spie Capag.

(c) The project was posed to the World Bank Group for assistance. The World Bank indicated the possibility of a loan of US $ 190 million to cover a portion of foreign exchange cost of the pipeline material, walls terminal, despatch station etc. and not for the ful foreign exchange requirement of the project.

(d) and (e) There was no investment of World Bank. and there was no investment by any private foreign company either. Contracts were awarded after evaluation of different bids and bilateral aid offers.

Power projects in private sector

1345. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several leading industrial groups and Non-resident Indians have shown interest in setting up power projects in the private sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have since considered the suggestions of the private sector to set up power plants in the country; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) While some parties have evinced interest in the setting up of power plants, including with NRI participation, no detailed proposal has been received so far.

(c) and (d) A Working Group comprising, inter alia, representatives of the State Electricity Boards and the private utilities was set up to examine, in detail, the question of encouraging private sector participation in power generation. The matter is receiving consideration of the Government.

Soviet interest for development of energy technology in India

1346. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soviet Union has evinced keen interest in the developments in India in renewable and decentralised form of energy technologies;

(b) if so, what are the details of the projects on which Soviet Union is showing their keen interest;

(c) whether the Soviet team or Indian team have visited their countries to identify such projects; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENEPGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. As a result of discussion held during the visit of the Soviet Science & Technology delegation to India last year, a Protocol was signed between India (Deptt. of Non-Conventional Energy Sources) and Soviet side (Institute of High Temperatures of the Soviet Academy of Sciences) for implementing a programme of scientific cooperation. This included joint feasibility studies on retrofitting Magneto Hydro Dynamics (MHD) power system in the existing power plants in India, exchange of information in advanced energy technologies relating to solar energy, boimass conversion & super conducting material, new and efficient ways of coal utilisation through gasification, synthetic fuel production and exchange of visits of sicentific personnel.